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## Turner stresses NATO need

Naples, Italy

The new director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) said Wednesday NATO should improve its military readiness to match an unexplained expansion by the Soviet Union.

"There is a continuing need to improve and update our military readiness in order to deter an adversary whose military strength continues to expand for reasons we cannot fathom," Admiral Stansfield Turner said.

But the Admiral, in a speech at the ceremony marking the end of his tour as commander-in-chief of allied forces in southern Europe, also said, "A sense of dedication to the [NATO] alliance is again on the increase."

He declared that the strength of NATO was its commitment to democracy and the dignity of man, and that this was "much stronger than totalitarian disregard for human rights and the heavy burden of the faulty economic and political ideology of the Warsaw Pact."

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## Assassinations: for a last probe

The Carter administration ought to go beyond the valuable suggestion from inside the Justice Department that there be an independent outside panel to review the department's findings in the Martin Luther King assassination case. There should be such a panel to investigate both the King and the John Kennedy assassinations — and the Robert Kennedy assassination if it finds reason to do so.

To some of the closest students of the assassinations there is no need to investigate further. They see no evidence upsetting the official findings that Oswald killed Kennedy and Ray killed King, neither killer being part of a conspiracy.

But it is known now that the Warren Commission did not have all the possible evidence when it confirmed the guilt of Oswald, though he never admitted it. And Ray has sought to change his original plea of guilty.

Many members of the public still have doubts about the official versions of the assassinations. Some will always have doubts. But there ought to be one final comprehensive effort to discover, lay out, and analyze the facts.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations might have been the vehicle for this effort. But, like the late House intelligence committee, this one is the victim of internal disarray. The intelligence committee did gather itself together and prepare a report, but then the House bowed to President Ford and refused to release it. The assassinations committee may yet get going on its assigned task, but it is questionable whether its credibility will recover from the charges and countercharges hurled within it. It, too, could end up with a vote of no-confidence from its own parent body.

Somehow the public must be convinced that it is getting the straight, full, unpoliticized word on the assassinations. Attorney General Bell himself took note of the fact that some questions were left unanswered in the recent Justice Department report that cleared the FBI of involvement in Dr. King's murder while chastising the agency for illegal and "clearly improper" harassment of him. And the remaining doubts of civil-rights leaders emphasize the need for independent review as suggested by outgoing assistant attorney general J. Stanley Pottinger.

Why should not the Carter administration authorize such a review panel to look into all the outstanding questions on the assassinations? The panel would have to have members from outside government with unimpeachable reputations and a range of credentials satisfactory to the doubters. It is just possible that in Mr. Carter's Washington the findings of such a panel would not only be informed and honest but received with trust.